

Application No.: 09/980,483

Docket No.: 324-140

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 8, 2006 has been carefully studied.

Applicants note the indication of claims 18-32 being allowable. Claims 17 and 18 have been combined, and claim 18 has been cancelled. Claims 19-32 are amended so they depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 17 as amended.

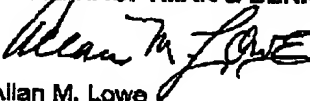
Independent method claims 33 and 34 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18 in method format.

All pending claims now contain subject matter that is allowable, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is proper, and deemed in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP



Allan M. Lowe
Registration No. 19,641

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 618-5499 Facsimile
Date: June 8, 2006
AML/tal:dll